

From the Speaker

The 2022–23 parliamentary year was a busy period for both Members of Parliament and the Queensland Parliamentary Service. As the entity supporting the work of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland (LAQ) and its Committees, the Parliamentary Service is responsible for a vast array of service delivery including:

- providing the IT, corporate and business services required for the successful operation of 93 Members of Parliament both within the parliamentary precinct and their electorates, including office facilities and supplies, travel, accommodation and staffing to support their roles
- facilitating 15 parliamentary sitting weeks of the Legislative Assembly and supporting the operation of 555 parliamentary committee hearings, meetings, and briefings in addition to the collation of submissions, provision of secretariat support and preparation of reports to parliament
- managing the heritage-listed Parliament House building and the Parliamentary Annexe in Brisbane as well as 97 electorate offices across Queensland, including CCTV installation, refurbishment, relocations, fit-out and leasing management
- delivering community engagement and accessibility activities including parliamentary education programs and youth parliaments, operation and maintenance of the parliamentary website, social media channels and Parliament TV, production of records of proceeding with written and archival footage, coordination of functions and events, and parliamentary precinct access and tours.

In 2022–23 the Parliamentary Service, in conjunction with the Queensland Government, undertook the major task of delivering a Far North Queensland Regional Sitting of Parliament held in Cairns in May 2023. This event was the sixth regional sitting of the Queensland Parliament and included a full parliamentary sitting week, a Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament, a regional Youth Parliament, and a schools visit program. We were visited by almost 3,300 students and members of the public at the regional sitting, and welcomed guests to associated parliamentary activities in the weeks preceding and during the regional sitting.

Significant work was undertaken on the development of our second Reconciliation Action Plan which is currently being implemented by the Queensland Parliamentary Service. Continuing our respectful engagement with First Nations peoples, in 2022–23 we hosted the Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament on Thursday Island, the first to be held in an Indigenous community.

The Parliament also hosted diplomatic visits and inter-parliamentary engagements. In the previous financial year, the Speaker's Office hosted numerous diplomatic visits, including meetings with Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consuls-General, and international parliamentary delegations. In 2022–23 we hosted visitors from Brazil, China, Egypt, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malta, Nauru, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

The ongoing digital transformation of the Queensland Parliament, which first began with an e-Democracy journey in 2003 through an audio broadcast of parliament, continued in 2022–23 with the Parliamentary Service commissioning a significant program across all its business areas and established five strategic project governance boards with oversight of key ICT projects:

- LAQ Digital Transformation – implementation of the new Parliamentary Information Management System (also known as PIMS).
- Enterprise Resource Planning – the replacement of the Parliamentary Service's legacy financial management system plus the introduction of new digital forms and workflow of the Parliamentary Service's human resources processes.
- Facility Services Digital Transformation – uplift of staff rostering capabilities and facilities management systems.
- IT Modernisation – Cyber Security uplift, IT Infrastructure Renewal (including network and infrastructure consolidation), workstation modernisation and application remediation.
- Audio Visual – modernisation of Parliament TV systems and infrastructure, audio system in Chambers and Committee Rooms, meeting and conference spaces.

The LAQ Digital Transformation program is the largest initiative, and one that is directly focused on improving Chamber and Committee services for Members. The implementation of this strategy is governed by two project boards: the LAQ Digital Transformation Board and the AV Project Board.

This covers three key elements:

- the implementation of a new enterprise Parliamentary Information Management System (PIMS) to replace a portfolio of existing bespoke IT applications which supports the operations of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland and parliamentary committees
- the remediation and stabilisation of a portfolio of in-house built legacy IT applications
- the replacement of ageing AV infrastructure associated with the broadcast of parliamentary and committee proceedings.

Significant capital works projects have taken place and are continuing at both the parliamentary precinct and in electorate offices. Site works commenced on the Parliamentary Annexe tower refurbishment in July 2022 for a major project which includes the rectification and make-safe of the external façade to address increasing safety risks, together with an internal upgrade of Members' office and accommodation spaces. The repairs to the external façade of the building are the most significant element of the project and require replacement of hundreds of custom external windows that do not meet current building code requirements and pose risks due to corroded fittings. The improved design of the new windows will offer energy and sound proofing benefits. This project is due for completion in early 2024.

The Parliament's budget for 2022–23 included additional funding to upgrade security in Members' electorate offices through installation of a standardised closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance system in each of the 97 office sites across Queensland. Planning included technical system design, developing formal specifications, market evaluation of options, engagement of a delivery and support partner, and scheduling installation across the State.

The administration of the Queensland Parliament is a large task and is admirably performed by the Queensland Parliamentary Service led by the Clerk, Neil Laurie and the Executive Leadership Team and supported by Parliamentary Service staff. On behalf of Members of the 57th Parliament, I thank the Parliamentary Service for its continued high-quality performance across a broad range of responsibilities.



Honourable Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly